



Borough of Mossley.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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THE

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

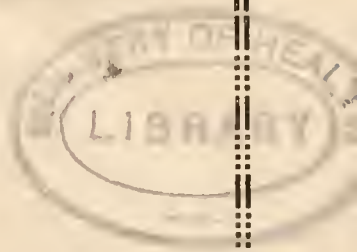
## Medical Officer of Health

For 1928.

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H. Heginbotham, Printer, Mossley.





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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year  
1928.

## 1. Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres, 3,624. Population Census, 1921,  
12,705. Estimated Population, 1928, 12,030.

The town is situated in a valley with houses on both  
sides. The subsoil is mostly clay on the Cheshire side, with  
rock and gravel on the Lancashire side. A small river runs  
through the valley. The atmosphere is generally moist.

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 3,247,  
and approximately 300 houses were inhabited by more than  
one family. The rateable value is £76,343 and the sum re-  
presented by a penny rate is £277.

The population consists mostly of working class and  
shopkeepers, the former occupied in cotton spinning and weav-  
ing, woollen weaving, wire rope manufacturing and small iron  
foundries. There is no particular deleterious influence on the  
public health from any of these occupations.

### Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births in 1928.....	155	84	71
Deaths in 1928 .....	180	90	90

# RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 Births	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births
Mean of 5 years (1923-27)	13'9	13'6	0'68	1'30	16'88	62
1927 .....	12'8	13'3	0'41	1'25	19'60	38
1928 .....	12'8	14'9	0'24	1'49	Nil.	103
Increase or Decrease in 1928 on						
5 years' average	-1'1	+1'3	-0'44	+0'19	-16'88	+41
Previous year ...	Nil.	+1'6	-0'17	+0'24	-19'60	+65
	Total.	M.	F.			
Live Births	Legitimate... 148	79	69	} Birth Rate ...12'8		
	Illegitimate 7	5	2			
Deaths .....	180	90	90	Death Rate...14'9		

There were no deaths of women in consequence of childbirth.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births, Legitimate 16, Illegitimate 1, Total 17. No deaths from Measles, 3 deaths from Whooping Cough, 2 deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age).

The largest mortality during the year from any one disease was 22 deaths from Heart Disease, 18 Cancer, 19 deaths from Nephritis.

The most noteworthy cause of sickness during the year was an outbreak of Small-pox at the end of October.

## 2. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospital accommodation is available for Small-pox at the Ashton-under-Lyne Joint Hospital at Hartshead, for which a retaining fee of £20 per annum is paid, but we have no accommodation for other infectious diseases. These latter are treated in their own houses with good results. The number of beds available for Small-pox depends on the number vacant at the time of the outbreak.

Tuberculosis, Maternity, and Children are treated at the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, to which institution the Corporation makes an annual subscription of 30 guineas. Occasionally Maternity cases are treated at the Union Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the area.

There is a motor ambulance for accidents and non-infectious cases kept at the Fire Station. There is a horse-drawn cab for infectious cases.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre held at the Wesleyan School, Stamford Road, every Wednesday, at 3 p.m., for consultation and advice. There is no Day Nursery. There is a School Clinic held in the Town Hall, consultations, and treatment by a Medical Officer, an Eye Specialist, and a Dentist.

A Tuberculosis Centre held at the Town Hall Lodge every Tuesday, at 11 a.m., provided by the County Council, where a Tuberculosis Officer from the Dispensary at Ashton-under-Lyne attends. A Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at the Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne.

There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes.



## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health, John Healey, M.B., Ch.B., part-time officer, is also Certifying Factory Surgeon, and in private practice. Salary, £145.

Sanitary Inspector, Ernest Slater, holds the Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, part-time officer, is also Surveyor, Inspector under Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts, and Meat Inspector, for which he holds certificates. Salary, £220, as Sanitary Inspector ; £220, as Surveyor

One assistant Sanitary Inspector, J. Ardern, who also acts as clerk to both offices. Salary, for the combined offices, £136 10s.

No specialised Inspectors.

One Maternity and Child Welfare Health Visitor, Elizabeth Aspinall, C.M.B., whole-time officer. Salary, £145

There are no arrangements made by the Local Authority for General Nursing or the Nursing of Infectious Diseases, but should the latter be necessary, as in the case of measles, arrangements could be made.

There is a District Sick Nursing Association supported by public subscriptions, one full-time nurse is employed, but no Child Welfare Midwifery or Monthly Nursing is undertaken.

There are three resident qualified Midwives who are on the County Register, none employed or assisted by the Local Authority. Occasionally cases are attended by qualified Midwives resident outside the district. The service is sufficient.



There are no Maternity or other Nursing Homes in the District.

Cases of maternal mortality are investigated by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor.

### LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Mossley Improvement Act, operative since 1885.  
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, from 1899.  
Part A Public Health Amendment Acts, from 1907.  
Infectious Diseases Notification Act, from 1889.  
Public Health Amendment Act, from 1890.  
Private Street Works Act, from 1892.

Bye-laws relating to Nuisances, Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, Markets and Offensive Trades.

## 3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The water supply is from a moorland source, Swinshaw, and Yeoman Hey reservoirs. The supply is constant and direct to houses, except in a few cases which are supplied by wells. The water has not been analysed by this Authority. Extension has been made to three cottages which were previously supplied by wells.

No action taken to check pollution of streams.

Drainage and sewage extension has been made in connection with the Corporation Housing Scheme, No. 2.

Closet accommodation. There is only one privy midden with closet attached ; 2835 pail closets ; 513 fresh water closets ; 148 waste water closets ; 669 dry ashpits ; and 617 movable ashbins for refuse. Ten pail closets have been converted to fresh water closets, and at 32 houses movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles.

✓ Scavenging. A weekly collection of refuse is made from all houses by the Sanitary Authority, except those in added Micklehurst, which is done by the owners or occupiers. This is efficient. Dry ashes are disposed of on a tip, and the excreta, mixed with absorbent, is disposed of as manure.

Sanitary Inspections. 229 premises were visited, 83 defects or nuisances were discovered, 77 abated. 83 informal notices were served and 3 statutory. No legal proceedings.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces. 45 inspections of factories were made and 3 written notices were served. 29 inspections of workshops, no notices, and in no case was the occupier prosecuted.

The defects found were:—Under the Public Health Acts, 1 nuisance, 1 defective sanitary accommodation. Under the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1 offence. All were remedied.

Smoke Abatement. 40 observations were taken, and there were 7 offences, but no legal action was taken. Time limit per hour, 10 minutes.

There are three tripe-boiling places, they are well kept, and no action was needed.

Schools. The sanitary condition of the Schools is good, and all are supplied with town's water. There were no closures during the year.

Health Education. During the outbreak of small-pox at the end of the year circulars were distributed through the whole town advising vaccination, and the care necessary to be taken.

Rag Flock Acts. No works of the kind.

## 4. Housing.

37 houses were erected during the year by the Local Authority with State assistance, none by other persons.

1. Unfit dwelling houses. 75 were inspected for housing defects.

49 were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

None were found so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

45 found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.

2. 18 dwelling houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.
3. No action was taken under Statutory Powers during the year.

The general housing conditions in the area are fair. There is a number of under houses, and back-to-back houses which cannot be dealt with until additional houses are built. The shortage of houses is not great, but there is a considerable demand for houses fitted with modern conveniences. Most of the existing houses are old, and do not contain bath, lavatory, or hot water services. Overcrowding is not extensive, and the causes are shortage of suitable houses, and depression in trade. There are no unhealthy areas.

The Local Authority's Housing Scheme No. 3 for the erection of 56 houses, 52 A2 type, and four A3 type is now in progress.

## 5 Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. All farm premises, dairies, milk-shops, and purveyors of milk are registered. Farms and others premises are regularly inspected. During the year 24 samples of milk were taken by the representatives of the County Council, and all proved genuine.

One dealer's licence was issued for the sale of "Certified" Milk, none for other grades. There are 17 dairy farms, and approximately 170 cows, and 17 cowkeepers all on the register. There were 43 inspections during the year. The Veterinary Surgeon is called in when necessary.

No action as to tuberculous milk, and no tuberculous cattle found.

(b) Meat and Other Foods. The Sanitary Inspector, who holds the Meat Inspector's Certificate, regularly inspects slaughter houses, meat, stalls, vehicles, etc. There is no public slaughter house but there are three registered and three licensed ones.

There are 29 bakehouses, and the condition is good.

56 lbs of tuberculous parts were voluntarily surrendered, no other, no legal proceedings necessary.

No action was taken by the Council in respect of the Foods and Drug Acts, but representatives of the County Council took samples of butter, margarine, cheese, lard, coffee, yeast, ground rice, flour, sugar, raspberry jam, fresh cream horn and slice, pyramid cake, pork sausage, potted meat, and pepper. All proved genuine.

## 6. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Infectious diseases were not more prevalent than in former years, except for the outbreak of smallpox towards the end of the year, on which the following special report was made.

TOWN HALL, MOSSLEY.                      October 29th, 1928.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

### OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX IN MOSSLEY.

GENTLEMEN,

On Friday evening, October 26th, 1928, I received by 'phone a notification of a case of smallpox at No. 25 Lees Road, Mossley. I visited the house forthwith and saw the case, a boy, with the medical attendant, and confirmed the diagnosis. I was then informed of another boy living on the other side of the road, No. 32, who had spots, I visited him and found he was a similar case. The two boys, each aged 11 years, scholars at St. George's School, (but had not attended for 12 days previously) were unvaccinated: I made arrangements for their removal to Hartshead Smallpox Hospital, and this was done at 8 a.m. on Saturday, October 27th, 1928, I also arranged for all contacts in both houses to be vaccinated, four in the first case, and seven in the second. This has been done, a record made, and the cases are being kept under observation. The clothing and bedding were removed and disinfected, and the whole of the premises disinfected, as well as the schoolroom which they attended. Both cases are of a mild type. The source of infection has not been traced.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HEALEY, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

By the end of the year 55 cases of smallpox had been notified, all were of a mild type, and there were no deaths. Of these 55 cases 24 were treated in their own homes, where it was found possible to isolate them, and there were no further cases occurred which were attributable to any case treated at home. The remaining 31 cases were treated at Hartshead Hospital.

There were seven cases of Diphtheria, five of which occurred in one block of buildings, but the source was not discovered. All the children played together. There was one death.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free by the Corporation to doctors notifying cases. It is stored at the Medical Officer's house.

Pneumonia was more marked during the year, and there were eight deaths.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are made when necessary at Manchester University Laboratory. There was one throat swab examined.

Chicken-pox was made notifiable for six months from November owing to the outbreak of smallpox. No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, but it is estimated that over 3000 persons were vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator and private medical men.

During the year 230 rooms and 1685 articles were disinfected, and in six instances disinfestation was carried out.

A rat-catcher is employed, part-time, at the Corporation tip.



### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1928.

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all ages.	under 1	Total of Cases Notified.											65 & over	Total Deaths in Hospital removed to Hospital belonging to district	
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	years 10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				
Smallpox	55	1	...	...	...	1	9	18	12	5	4	5	...	...	31	...
Scarlet fever	8	...	...	1	2	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria including Membranous Group	7	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	24	...	1	...	2	...	5	1	3	5	3	3	1	8	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	5	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Totals	105	4	2	2	5	4	20	23	16	12	7	9	1	12	32	...



No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury of the eyes.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Cases Treated		Vision Unimpaired
	At Home	In Hospital	
	3	1	All

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1928.

Age Periods. years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1			1					
1-5			1					
5-10				1				
10-15		1						
15-20	1			1				
20-25		1	3			1		1
25-35		1						
35-45	1			1				
45-55		1			1	1		
55-65								
65 & upwards	1					1		
	3	4	5	3	1	3	1	0
Totals	7		8		4		1	

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action was taken under these regulations relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action taken.

## 7. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Maternity and Child Welfare work is carried out by the Local Authority. A consultation centre is held every Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, at the Wesleyan School, Stamford Road. It is staffed by a part-time Medical Officer, and a full-time Health Visitor, in addition to voluntary workers. There are no Maternity Homes, Hospitals, or other institutions for the reception of expectant and nursing mothers, and young children as in-patients. Enquiry is made into all cases of maternal deaths by the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor. Ante-natal work is slowly increasing at the Centre, where the midwives practicing in the district attend regularly when their duties permit. Food and Milk are granted free in necessitous cases, each application being decided on its merits, on a report by the Health Visitor, after full investigation of the circumstances. Children in need of ortho-pædic treatment are generally referred to the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, sometimes to the Manchester Children's Hospital. There is no work by voluntary societies in connection with maternity and child welfare. Data collected at the Centre are handed to the School Medical Officials when school age approaches. There were no cases of puerperal fever during 1928, and only two cases of puerperal pyrexia, both recovered. There were three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, all recovered with sight unimpaired.

The building of new houses under the Corporation Housing Scheme has progressed during the year.

The chief sanitary requirements are the closure of under houses, and alterations and improvement of back-to-back houses. These improvements cannot be carried out until a sufficient number of new houses have been erected.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HEALEY, M.B., Ch.B.,

May 18th, 1929.

late Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1928.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH  
AND MARKET COMMITTEE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year  
1928.

## **Drainage.**

No public sewers have been constructed during the year, except in connection with the Municipal Housing Scheme, details of which will be found under the appropriate heading. With regard to repairs, alterations, and improvements to existing drains and sewers, 63 yards of 4in. and 22 yards of 6in. pipes have been laid. Eight large street gullies and seven yard gullies have been fixed. In some cases drainage work has been carried out on behalf of private owners. All new connections to main sewers are made by the Corporation ; the cost is charged to the owner concerned. All new drains are inspected, and, where practicable, tested, before filling in.

## **Infectious Disease and Disinfection.**

Two hundred and thirty infected rooms, and 1685 articles of clothing and bedding have been disinfected. Rooms occupied by persons suffering from tuberculosis are disinfected in cases where the patients are removed to Sanatoria, and in

cases which terminate fatally. Twenty-four rooms have been sprayed, each on two occasions, with a special insecticide, viz., R.I.D.S. Fluid, on account of their verminous condition. Householders frequently desire to have beds and bedding treated at the disinfecting station upon the fatal termination of an illness which is not notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Acts. In cases where the Doctor in attendance, or the Medical Officer of Health, considers such treatment desirable, the work is done free of charge. In other cases a charge is made towards to cost incurred. Disinfection of bedding etc., is carried out at the Corporation Depot, Scout. The apparatus consists of an Alliot and Paton's Patent High Pressure Steam Disinfector. All Day Schools are sprayed with disinfectant once per week during term time. Householders who reside within the district are supplied with disinfectant for domestic use, free of charge, on application at the Town Hall. A man is in attendance on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. The distribution of disinfectants free of cost, requires to be strictly supervised, otherwise waste and misuse occurs. Disinfectants should not be used in an attempt to disinfect drains, and get rid of a foul odour, which, on investigation, may be found to be due to some defect in the system, nor as substitutes for soap and water, fresh air, and sunlight.

During the period under review, an outbreak of small-pox occurred. The first case was notified in October, and others followed quickly. A nurse was temporarily engaged for the purpose of assisting in visiting the numerous contacts, and rendered valuable service. Three thousand and sixty-seven visits to contacts were made to the end of the year. An epidemic of this kind causes a large increase in the administrative work of the Department. Thus, full records have been kept of all cases, contacts, inspections, etc., and a large amount of special disinfection has been carried out.

## **Scavenging and the disposal of Refuse.**

This work is undertaken by the Corporation. There

are 1286 ashpits within the Borough, 669 fixed and 617 movable. They are emptied weekly, the contents being carted to the tip on Corporation land at Scout. About 3250 loads per annum are thus dealt with, equivalent to about 60 tons per week, on the average. No charge is at present made to shopkeepers for the removal and disposal of trade refuse. About 80% of the refuse is stored in fixed ashpits, many of which are in positions difficult of access, thus necessitating filling and carrying to the vehicle some distance away, causing the process of loading to be slow where such conditions prevail. For the above and other reasons, practical tests, carried out with different types of motor vehicles, have hitherto proved the economic advantage of continuing with horses and carts. A general adoption of standard portable ash-bins would doubtless expedite the collection of domestic refuse, be more sanitary, and would probably reduce the amount of paper, cardboard, and other combustible refuse, which has to be removed in ever increasing quantities as time passes. The increased use of gas appliances for cooking and heating makes it difficult for the housewife to burn combustible refuse, especially in summer time. The Corporation is encouraging the adoption of portable ash-bins by keeping a stock of good strong bins, and supplying owners of property with same at cost price. During the year four fixed ashpits have ceased to be used and 32 ashbins substituted. The land available for tipping is becoming exhausted, and the question of acquiring a plot of land, suitable for tipping, or, an alternative method of disposing of house refuse, will need to be considered in the near future. There are 2835 pail closets, 513 fresh-water flush closets, & 148 waste water closets. The pails are emptied once per week, cleaned and disinfected. The solid, and a proportion of the liquid contents, are mixed with a suitable absorbent and disposed of as a fertiliser. The number of fresh-water flush closets has increased by 58 during the year.

### **Lodging Houses.**

There are two Common Lodging Houses within the



Borough, both very old buildings, and are situated one in Upper Mossley and the other in lower Mossley. They are registered, and kept in a satisfactory condition by the proprietors. Inspections are made at intervals.

A case of smallpox occurred at the Lodging House in Upper Mossley. This was traced from a previous case. The man was promptly removed to hospital, the contacts vaccinated, and the premises and bedding disinfected. No further case developed from this source of infection.

## **Nuisances.**

Eighty-three informal and three statutory notices have been served, 53 nuisances have been abated. In addition, many defects and nuisances have been attended to by owners without written notices. In the majority of cases owners of property maintain their houses in a reasonable state of repair. I regret to say that there are always some owners and agents of property who fail to carry out the most necessary work, unless and until much pressure has been brought to bear by the officials of the Health Department.

During the year three notices under Section 5 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, relating to unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation and insufficient means of escape in case of fire. Two cases have been satisfactorily dealt with, and one is still pending.

## **Slaughter-houses and Tripe-Boiling Works.**

There are six slaughter-houses, three registered and three licensed. There are three tripe-boiling establishments at present in use. All the above are periodically inspected. It has not been necessary to take any proceedings for infringement of Bye-laws or Regulations.



## **Meat Inspection and Meat Regulations.**

Slaughter-houses have been inspected whilst killing and dressing have been in progress, the carcasses and organs being examined. It has not been found necessary to condemn any whole carcase. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of parts have been condemned on account of localised tuberculous conditions. The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector are the officers duly authorised by the Council to administer the Meat Regulations. Inspection have been made, special attention being given to stalls in the open market place, and meat in transit. No infringement of the Regulations has been detected.

### **Bakehouses.**

There are 29 bakehouses within the Borough, all registered in accordance with the Factory and Workshop Act. Most of these are on a small scale, the occupiers baking for their own retail trade. There are no underground bakehouses. The general condition and cleanliness is good, no offences having been detected. In two cases improvement of the sanitary fittings has been accomplished as a result of informal action.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.**

There are 18 farms, 31 cowsheds, and 17 cowkeepers within the Borough. There are two milkshops and one retail dairy. All are registered. All farm premises are regularly inspected, in order to ensure compliance with the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926. Notices to limewash are sent to all farmers within the Borough twice annually. No breach of the Regulations has been detected.

There is one purveyor of "Certified" milk who is licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. There are nine retailers of undesignated bottled milk only, all of whom are registered. One small farm has been added to the register during the year.

## **Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts.**

The statistical quarterly returns under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925 were all "nil" returns. No outbreak of notifiable disease has occurred within the Borough during the year. The issuing of movement licenses under the above Acts, and inspections arising out of the movements of animals under license, are dealt with by the Police, who have called to their aid on several occasions a qualified veterinary surgeon for examination of contacts of notifiable disease.

## **Sewage Works.**

The final effluent from your works, has, on the whole, been satisfactory. The usual inspections, at irregular intervals, have been made by the Rivers Board's Inspectors. Samples of effluent have been taken, which, on analysis have been satisfactory to the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee except on two occasions. The bad effluent on both occasions was caused by the presence of tar in the sewers. The condition was investigated and traced to the Gas Works at Roaches and reported to the Gas Works Engineer forthwith. A leakage was found in the tar main, which was made good, but some considerable time elapsed before it was possible to cleanse the sewers from deposited tar. The settled sludge from two lagoons has been removed. The work of removal was again restricted owing to the persistent wet weather. The necessary amount of river sand for topping the filters at Blackrock has been obtained as usual. Ashes have been screened and the finer gauges used for the roughing filters at Scout.

## **Smoke Abatement.**

**Factories.** 40 timed observations of factory chimneys have been made with the following results:- in seven cases the emission of black smoke allowed by the Regulations of the Council—five minutes in 30 minutes—was exceeded. A copy of the observation, together with an informal notice to abate the

nuisance, was sent to the offender in each case. Three statutory notices have been served, but no legal proceedings have been taken. Managers and engineers of factories whose chimneys were emitting excessive amounts of black smoke have been interviewed, and in one case a marked reduction of the nuisance has occurred, accompanied by a decrease in the consumption of fuel. I am convinced that the nuisances arising from black smoke are almost invariably due to careless or unscientific management of the boiler furnaces.

Domestic Chimneys. The Police have taken proceedings against several occupiers of houses on account of chimneys being fired. A small fine has invariably been imposed.

## **Housing.**

No houses have been closed during 1928. No new houses have been erected by private enterprise. Progress has been made with the Municipal Housing Scheme on the Fox Platt Estate. Scheme No. 2 has been completed during the year. This comprises 37 houses, viz. :- 29 A2 type and 8 A3 type. 1200 lineal yards of 6in. and 900 yards of 4in. drains and sewers have been laid on the site. 150 gullies have been fixed and 190 connections made. All streets have been completed.

## **Petroleum Acts and Explosives.**

Inspections of petrol stores have been made. 17 licenses have been renewed for the storage of petroleum spirit where such is not stored in accordance with the regulations. Fees have been charged in accordance with the schedule—Petroleum Act, 1926. Six notifications have been received respecting the keeping of Petroleum Spirit within 20 feet of a building of different ownership as required by Section 7 of the Locomotives Order, 1907.

Thirteen premises have been registered for the storage and sale of mixed explosives, (fireworks).

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST SLATER, A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.



